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9-24-01

**OROVILLE FACILITIES RELICENSING  
WORK GROUP  
DRAFT STUDY PLAN TEMPLATE WITH DESCRIPTIONS**

**Objectives of Study** – Specific information sought by the study and what the study should accomplish.

**Relationship to Relicensing/Need for the Study** – Description of the nexus between this study and project-related effects. Description of existing information, and additional information and analysis that is needed to achieve the study objective.

**Study Area** – Description of the geographic scope of the study, including identifying areas with project-related effects (e.g., on a map), and providing an explanation for instances when the study area exceeded the project area.

**Methodology & Analysis** – Description of the study methodology, including data gathering and analysis of the data. Discussion of items that need to be addressed to perform this study or extraordinary implementation issues, e.g., *ESA consultation required and the process and timeframe, other permits.*

**Results/Products** – Discussion of how the results of the study will be used. For example, how will study results be used to develop an actionable PM&E measure. Additionally, this section could also contain information or agreements relating to the interpretation of study results. Include discussion of products or deliverables.

**Coordination With Other Resource Areas/Studies** – Discussion of which Work Groups and/or other studies require coordination with this study.

**Schedule** – Brief discussion of the schedule.

**Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking and/or Compliance Requirements** – Accounting Issue Comments, Issue Sheets and Study Plan. Description of any specific regulatory requirements completion of study fulfills.

## **STUDY 7 ADA ACCESSIBILITY STUDY**

### **Objectives of Study**

The objective of this study is to assess the present adequacies and future accessibility needs for people with disabilities to use project-related recreation facilities and to participate in the Project's primary recreation activities (i.e. camping, fishing, boating) occurring in the Project area. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a key issue with regards to potential facility upgrades that may be considered for proposed Project protection, mitigation, and enhancements (PMEs).

### **Relationship to Relicensing/Need for Study**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed into law in 1990, protects individuals with disabilities by specifying that adequate access to facilities be provided to the physically disabled, including recreation facilities.

### **Study Area**

Recreational facilities within the Oroville Facilities FERC boundary.

### **Methodology and Analysis**

In 1991, *Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities* (ADAAG) was published. ADAAG specified guidelines, not standards, to consider when designing facilities, including recreation facilities. Since then, design guidelines specifically for recreation facilities have been documented in *Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation - A Design Guide* (PLAE 1993), which is generally considered state-of-the art in the field of universal design for outdoor recreation facilities at this time.

In 1997, the federal Outdoor Developed Areas Regulatory Negotiating Committee was established and charged with developing proposed accessibility guidelines for trails, picnic and camping areas, and beaches. The U.S. Access Board has also completed work on proposed guidelines for certain other recreation facilities, such as sports facilities, places of amusement, golf, and boating and fishing facilities. Proposed guidelines for trails, campsites, and picnic areas have not yet been published. When adopted, all of these new additional rules will provide clarification and design standards regarding the mandate to provide ADA-accessible recreation facilities in the United States. It will be important to determine in what phase these various guidelines are (from development to adoption), and which are the appropriate guidelines to use in completing this study.

#### **Task 1 - Review Existing Literature**

The first task will be to collect and review pertinent information. Primary sources of information to be reviewed include: the ADAAG and ADA, U.S. Access Board proposed rules and ongoing recreation committee actions, State Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) guidelines, FS Accessibility Transition Plans, as available, and recent renovation assessments and plans by various agencies. A facility and access accessibility survey form will be developed from review of these organizational standards. An example form is shown in Attachment 1.

#### **Task 2 - Field Assessment**

The field assessment of developed facilities will review accessibility in several key areas including: parking, toilets/showers, camping, day use/picnicking, boat launches, major access routes/trails, drinking water, signs, and trash receptacles. Each major user group at each site will be considered.

## **DRAFT EXAMPLE STUDY PLAN**

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### **STUDY # ? RECREATION FACILITY & CONDITION INVENTORY**

#### **Objectives of Study**

The objective of this study is to ensure that existing Project-related facilities are in good repair and are being well maintained. This study serves to identify possible facility improvements that may be needed, as well as facility operational and maintenance needs, that may become future proposed PMEs. In addition, this study will also provide a more detailed inventory and evaluation of recreation facilities, use areas, and site conditions for each of the sites in the Project area. This study is the overall recreation resources supply/inventory task.

#### **Relationship to Relicensing/Need for Study**

The Code of Federal Regulations in Title 18, Part 2, Section 2.7, states in part:

*"The Commission will evaluate the recreational resources of all projects under Federal license or applications therefore and seek, within its authority, the ultimate development of these resources, consistent with the needs of the area to the extent that such development is not inconsistent with the primary purpose of the project."*

There is a need to determine if the current amount and condition of recreation development is adequate for anticipated and potential use levels for the period of the new license.

#### **Study Area**

Areas within the Oroville Facilities FERC boundary.

#### **Methodology and Analysis**

This study will provide a more detailed inventory and evaluation of recreation facilities, use areas, and conditions for each of the sites in the study area. The study will focus on developing a good inventory of the supply of Project-related developed facilities and dispersed use areas and trails. Specific areas of interest include the physical condition of facilities and use areas and ongoing operations and maintenance issues. The overall inventory will serve as a baseline for future needs assessment work and for future long-term monitoring efforts.

A universal accessibility assessment will be conducted in Study # ?, the ADA Accessibility Study.

#### **Task 1 – Develop Inventory and Condition Forms**

Standard inventory and facility condition forms will be developed. Existing data from appropriate agencies may be incorporated into these forms.

#### **Task 2 – Facility and Site Mapping and Photography**

For each developed site, field data will be collected and presented, including:

- Site photography - to be used to better describe major sites and to be used for future monitoring efforts;
- Conceptual site mapping of existing facilities and site features for major developed sites in Arc View, based on GIS base map data;
- General measurements and area calculations of major developed sites;
- Mapping of developed recreation sites in GIS.

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The fieldwork included in this task will be done in conjunction with Study # ?, the Recreation and Public Use Impact Assessment. This parallel study will locate, map and photograph dispersed sites and will categorize their locations in GIS.

### **Task 3 – Facility and Site Inventory**

Methods for the analysis involve review of existing information, consultation with site managers and/or private operators, and site-specific field investigations. The inventory forms developed in Task 1 will be filled out in Task 3. Existing conditions will be identified and documented through field reconnaissance and notes will be revalidated and documented in tabular format. Planned or future recreation facilities or use areas will be documented through review of existing plans and through consultation. Facilities that will be expanded or upgraded in the future will be noted. Interviews will be held with agencies and other recreation providers in the Project area.

The fieldwork included in this task will be done in conjunction with Study # ?, the Recreation and Public Use Impact Assessment. While in the field, inventory data will be also be collected on observed day or overnight use, fire rings, trail or road access, picnic tables, parking, tent pads, etc.

### **Task 4 – Facility Condition Assessment**

The facility condition forms developed in Task 1 will be filled out in Task 4. To characterize facility conditions, each site will be rated using specific criteria. Four qualitative criteria will be used including: (N) needs replacement (broken or missing components, or non-functional); (R) needs repair (structural damage or otherwise in obvious disrepair); (M) needs maintenance (primarily cleaning); and (G) is in good condition (functional and well-maintained). Unsafe conditions and signs of overuse will be noted. Public use impact data that will be collected as part of Study # ?, the Recreation and Public Use Impact Assessment, will also be used as part of the condition assessment. In making this assessment, existing data will be used where appropriate.

The fieldwork for dispersed sites included in this task will be done in conjunction with Study # ?, the Recreation and Public Use Impact Assessment. While in the field, dispersed site condition information will be collected such as observed sanitary problems, erosion, and vegetation damage associated with these sites.

### **Task 5 – Other FERC Required Data Collection**

FERC requires a discussion of National Recreation Trails and federal Wild and Scenic Rivers (existing and candidate). These resources will be documented

### **Task 6 – Summary Report Preparation**

The results of Tasks 1 through 5 will be presented in a summary report. The summary report will include tables with a detailed listing of facilities available at each site, text descriptions of facilities, site facility diagrams in Arc View, site photography, facility condition ratings, GIS mapping updates of recreation site polygons, a discussion of O&M issues at each site, a discussion of potential for site expansion, and recommendations for facility replacement, repair, or cleaning.

There has been much debate about the presence and condition of facilities at the Project. Extreme scrutiny of this study is expected. As a result, stakeholders may wish to be engaged at some level.

## **Results/Products**

The following products will be developed for this study:

- Summary report with appendices (site photographs and site diagrams).

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The field assessment will provide details and prioritization of recreation accessibility needs at developed recreation facilities. This analysis will consider anticipated changes to the current ADAAG that will likely take affect within the next two years and the USFS Accessibility Transition Plans.

### **Task 3 – Summary Report**

Following the field visit, a summary report will be prepared. This report will address existing accessibility needs (if any) and future considerations at each developed recreation site in the study area. Recommendations will be made, if appropriate, to make existing and proposed recreation facilities and the Project's primary recreation activities, assessable to persons with disabilities. This summary will include a table that summarizes the accessibility of existing facilities and recreation areas to persons with disabilities.

### **Results/Products**

The following products will be developed for this study:

- Field survey form (Task 1).
- Summary Report.

### **Coordination With Other Resource Areas/Studies**

This study will require coordination with the Recreation Facility and Condition Inventory (Study ?).

### **Schedule**

- This study will be conducted from April 2002 through October 2002.
- A draft report is due out for review by March, 2002.

### **Issue, Concerns, Comments Tracking/Compliance Requirements**

R1. Adequacy of existing project recreation facilities, opportunities, and access to accommodate current use and future demand.

Compliance Requirement: The Oroville Facilities must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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**ATTACHMENT 1****RECREATION SITE ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND INVENTORY**  
**Oroville Facilities**

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Operator: \_\_\_\_\_ Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

Accessibility Topics	Notes
<b>Parking</b> Total # = _____ Accessible # = _____ Location of Stalls = _____ _____	
<b>Toilet and Shower Facilities</b> Total # = _____ Accessible # = _____ _____	
<b>Major Site Feature:</b> <b>Campground</b> Total # = _____ Accessible # = _____ _____	
<b>Major Site Feature:</b> <b>Day Use/Picnic Area</b> Total # = _____ Accessible # = _____ _____	
<b>Major Site Feature:</b> <b>Boat Launch Area</b> Total # = _____ Accessible # = _____ _____	
<b>Major Site Feature: Other</b> _____ _____	
<b>Drinking Water</b> _____ _____	
<b>Other Site Features:</b> <b>Signs, Trash Cans, Etc.</b> _____	

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### **Schedule**

- This study will be conducted from March 2002 through June 2002.
- A draft report is scheduled for December, 2002.

### **Coordination With Other Resource Areas/Studies**

This study will utilize data from the ADA Accessibility Study and have the field efforts coordinated with the Recreation and Public Use Impact Assessment

GIS base mapping and cover type mapping (recreation polygons) will be needed to complete this study.

### **Issue, Concerns, Comments Tracking/Compliance Requirements**

R1. Adequacy of existing project recreation facilities, opportunities, and access to accommodate current use and future demand (Issues addressed: 1, 2, 5-40, 96, 110).

